What is claimed is:

1. A personal computer comprising:

a microphone for detecting ambient noise;

a noise cancellation module coupled to the microphone that generates a noise cancellation signal responsive to the detected ambient noise; and

a digital signal processor for mixing the noise cancellation signal with an audio signal provided from a desired source for provision to an audio output connection.

2. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 and further comprising an optical disc drive for providing the audio signal.

3. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 wherein the noise cancellation module comprises a software program running on a processor.

4. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is the central processing unit for the computer system.

5. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 wherein the digital signal processor is located on a sound board.

6. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 wherein the audio output connection is compatible with a standard set of headphones.

7. The noise reduction scheme of claim 1 wherein the computer system is a mobile computer.

8. A method of reducing ambient noise normally heard by a user through headphones when listening to audio provided via a mobile computer system, comprising:

detecting the ambient noise;

generating a noise cancellation signal based on the detected ambient noise; and

mixing the noise cancellation signal with the audio from the compact disc, wherein the mixed signal is applied to the headphones.

9. The method of claim 8 and further comprising converting the detected ambient noise to an electrical signal.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein detecting the ambient noise is performed using a built-in microphone within the mobile computer system.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein generation of the noise cancellation signal is done when the optical disc drive is active.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein generation of the noise cancellation signal is initiated manually via a software interface.

13. A machine readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon for causing a computer to perform the steps comprising:

detecting environmental background noise;

converting the detected environmental background noise into an electrical signal;

generating a noise cancellation signal based on the electrical signal; and

mixing the noise cancellation signal with an audio signal for provision to an audio output connection.

14. The machine readable medium of claim 13 wherein the step of generating a noise cancellation signal is performed automatically when the optical disc drive is active.

15. The machine readable medium of claim 13 wherein the step of generating a noise cancellation signal is activated through a software interface.

16. A personal computer comprising:

a microprocessor;

memory coupled to the microprocessor;

a storage device coupled to the microprocessor;

a microphone for detecting ambient noise;

a noise cancellation module coupled to the microphone that generates a noise cancellation signal responsive to the detected ambient noise; and

a digital signal processor for mixing the noise cancellation signal with an audio signal provided from a desired source for provision to an audio output connection.

17. The personal computer of claim 16 and further comprising an integrated display device.

18. The personal computer of claim 17 wherein the personal computer comprises a mobile computer system having an integrated source of power.

19. The personal computer of claim 16 wherein the noise cancellation module is part of the microprocessor.

20. The personal computer of claim 17 wherein the personal computer comprises a mobile computer system and the noise cancellation module is provided by the microprocessor.